



Alcester Grammar School

The Record

No. 164

Autumn 1997 - Summer 1998

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1997-1998

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The Year of 1997/8 At AGS

September 1997 found 90 students in Year 7 for the first time in the school's history. I am glad to report that it did not seem to make much difference. Although 50% more than usual, they seemed to the Sixth Form to look very small and they found their confidence just as quickly as usual. At 636 students the school began to move towards medium size, with between 750 and 800 expected by 2002.

The Sixth Form, as lively and buoyant as Year 7 (but in different ways) grew to nearly 300, and welcomed students from schools in Bromsgrove, Warwick, Stratford, Redditch, Evesham and the edge of Birmingham as well as our usual catchment areas. Everyone ended up with at least one A level or GNVQ (Advanced) and having raised about £3,500 in Rag Week, left on a high note. Fifteen students achieved grade A in three or more subjects and, for the statisticians the modal (most frequently achieved) grade was A.

I am pleased to say that both Year 11 and Year 13 have developed a Year Book for all their members; I do hope that future years will try to do the same as a way of preserving memories and keeping in touch. The school has a website too, on which we are beginning to build a list of e-mail addresses. So look us up under Alcester Grammar School and send us your address, so that you and your friends do not lose one another !

This year we have lost some old faces on the staff.

Mr Micklethwaite has been with us for twenty-seven years as a teacher first of Geography and Economics and later on as Head of Department of Economics / Business Studies. In that time the department has grown enormously in popularity and success. Many students past and present will remember him also as a lively and vigorous leader at Marle Hall and in Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme expeditions, where his utter reliability and good humour have kept many students going when about to give up ! He has also held the very exacting post of Examination Secretary responsible for thousands of individual subject entries each year and the good conduct of the exams. This has been an arduous task involving great dedication. From the start he has been involved with helping school teams and has always run a badminton club. He will long be remembered for his leadership of Newport House and his leadership of many ski trips.

Mr Simpson has been at AGS since 1982, many of those years being Head of Mathematics. There is no doubt that under his leadership Maths has become one of the most successful departments over the school with extraordinarily good results. He has been, like Mr Micklethwaite, a keen supporter of a wide range of school sports and, in recent years, was in charge of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, an increasingly popular and therefore onerous responsibility, which he undertook with his usual quiet assurance, thereby enabling hundreds of students to gain great satisfaction.

Mrs Woodcock leaves us after twenty-six years part-time teaching; she was initially appointed to teach French and Latin and kept Latin alive until the 1980s when she became primarily a teacher of English. At various times she has encouraged and supported a Debating Society and led many, many, theatre trips with sixth form students. She has been ever conscientious and caring, despite suffering ill-health for a number of periods. She and Mr Woodcock, who retired two years ago (apart from a little part-time Law teaching), will now be able to enjoy retirement together.

Mrs Bradley leaves after seven years as a part-time teacher of Music, during which time she has been a great motivator of children and leader of many choirs and orchestras; we have all enjoyed their music ! She has been an utterly loyal and supportive member of the school, both as a parent and teacher and has been a complete professional in the way she has taught.

All four of these are retiring and we wish them a long, healthy and active time and thank them for their long-standing care for this school and all its students.

Mrs Whitmore leaves after three years, for promotion to a comprehensive school in Nuneaton. We are all grateful to her for the splendid part she has played in the History Department and in joint leadership of the Christian Union Group. She also ran a very successful Mock Election.

By the end of 1997/8 we had almost completed the last part of the school's £2m building programme with extensions to staffroom, sixth form common room, and the learning resource centre (library), three new teaching rooms for sixth the form, a new laboratory and a lift for the disabled. The school still desperately needs a new sports hall and looks for a rich and generous benefactor !

A. W. Shearn

School Register 1997-98

Welcome, September 1997

Year 7 : 7n

Benedict Appleby, Simon Ballard, David Bennington, Jennifer Benton-Evans, Kyle Buck, Christopher Campbell, Kirsty Campbell, Yu-San Chan, Andrew Claxton, Sarah Cockman, Sarah-Jane Corry, Jonathon Duffin, Benjamin Egan, Katy Gines, Corrin Gould-Fellows, Paul Griffin, Rebecca Hafner, Shea Hunt, Robert Kirby, Emily Metcalf, Laura Mercer, Daniel Palmer, Emma Peters, Melissa Smith, Katherine Stock, Matthew Taylor, Katie Walter, Kate Weatherall, Alexander Weaver, Lisa Willoughby.

Year 7 : 7s

Luke Aislabie, Lindsey Alder, Jonothan Anton, Charlotte Bird, Emily Bloxham, Aaron Bumford, Sarah Coates, Tamsin de Rosa, Farrah Emmott, Sadie Fleming, Natasha Glenville, Samuel Haskins, Jessica Houghton, Nicholas Johnson, Samantha Kibblewhite, Fionnghuala Martin, Jennifer Merryfield, Simon Frankard, Rosalind Preston, David Rees, Lorna Shaddick, Alastair Stewart, Sarah Thacker, Daniel Thomas, Brett Turner, James Turner, Matthew Ward, Amy Widdowson, Jonathan Wiltshire, Matthew Wright.

Year 7 : 7w

Heather Allen, William Belfield, Corrina Conroy, Hamish Ferguson, Alexander Grierson, Andrew Hale, Catherine Halliday, Emily Hartley, Andrew Hill, Rebecca Hunt, Thomas Hyde, Julia Johnson, Eleanor Larard-Tansley, Laura Lewis, Phoebe Mavrommatis, Kitty Melhuish, James Moffat, Sophia Morris, Sarah Nickerson, Christopher O'Donovan, Dipali Patel, Christian Pepler, Claire Pickett, Nia Pierce-Jones, David Rolfe, Joakim Sand, Jane Shields, Joel Stanley, Rohan Talbot, Richard Yapp.

Year 8 :

Laura Fitzgerald

Year 9 :

Alison Belfield

Year 10 :

Bethany Stanley, Beverley Fleming

Year 12 :

From Alcester High School - Kirsty Ankcorn, Lucy Buxton, Michelle Dallow, Frances Dance, Joanne Gill, William Green, Alice Hancox, Susannah Kenyon, Richard Price, Thomas Radburn, Rupert Roden, Sian Sansome, Iain Shadlock, Roger Talbot, Angharad Timms, Peter Walford, Thomas Warren; **From Arrow Vale High School** - Helen Poulton; **From Blessed John Oldcorne High School** - Emma Preston; **From Bridley Moor High School** - Rhiannon Davies; **From Bromsgrove School** - Charlotte Dencer; **From Dodderhill School** - Rachel Pask; **From Fairmont High School, Cape Town, South Africa** - Shande Niemann; **From Frankfurt International School** - Jonathan Chiffin; **From Gymnasium Martineum, Halberstadt, Germany** - Maria-Anna Hanke; **From Henley High School** - Stephen Dunn, Stuart Goddard, Amy Hall, Sarah Insoll, Stewart Kingscott, Chris Knight, John Lunau, Jonathan Roberts, Helen Robson, Adrian Springer; **From Kenilworth School** - Tom Oldham; **From Kineton High School** - James Pearson;

From King Edward's Grammar School - Thomas Benjamin, Joseph Houghton, Gary Joynes, Robert Pearson; **From Kingsley School** - Hannah Elwell; **From Pontarddulais School** - David Attwood; **From Prinethorpe College** - Hemal Panchmatia; **From Stratford on Avon Grammar School for Girls** - Ruth Crilly; **From South Bromsgrove High School** - Aislinn Whittaker; **From St Benedict's High School** - Eleanor Appleby, Angela Bashford, Mhairange Bottone, Katy Carter, Simon Danes, Thomas Futers, James Goodman, Dominic Lawler, Katryna McIntosh, Kay McNamee, Anne Miles, Rebecca Murphy, Rico Pecho, Kelly Poole, Ciara Redman, Ewa Sozanska, Hayley Stringer, Sean Sweeney, Roxanne Taylor, Kathryn Thompson, James Williams; **From St Peter's School** - Matthew McLaughlin; **From Stratford on Avon High School** - Corrado Plotegher, Edward Sheldon, Richard Strickland; **From Studley High School** - Joanna Bentley, James Bowley, Jennifer Bridger, Ian Cutler, Robert Dagger, Lisa Daw, Emma Fahey, Elizabeth Harding, Nikola Lamburn, Christopher Mason, Nicholas Mellor, Thomas Moffat, John Platt, David Rawlings, Hannah Shrimpton, Simone Silcock, Philip Smith, Rachel Sturdey, Penny Taylor, Caroline Turner, James Turner; **From The Warriner School** - Anna Pidgeon; **From Trinity School** - Elizabeth Evans; **From Warwick Boys' School** - Christopher Campbell, Sebastian Horton, Samuel Wilkes.

Year 13 :

Ruth Reid, Duncan Thomas.

Farewell July 1998

13AC :

Emma Blackman, Amanda Croft, David Crofts, James Freeman, Simon Green, Simon Lockren, Catherine Neville, Iain Slade, Louisa Smith, Katherine Tanner

13CPK :

Elizabeth Benstead, Annabelle Clarke, Dirk Demuth, Benjamin Dicken, Sarah Fitzsimmons, Katherine Hawkes, Corrina Howe, Amelia Waldron, Andrew Wasley

13CRS :

Corinne Averiss, James Barnett, Mary Beech, Jodie Kettleborough, Thomas Moulson, Jessica Rees, Hannah Rowe, Annabel Stott, Natalie Swinbourne, Duncan Thomas, Oliver Tupman

13DCB :

Avanthi Ananthram, James Bleakman, James Bowler, Daniel Carrivick, Daniel Fogarty, Helen Hewitt, James Long, Sam Richards, Matthew Seeney

13DMC :

Ian Chisholm, Adam Devey, Simon Harrison, Sheryl Hopkins, Tracey Jankus, Anne Kerr, Natalie Lynch, Sarah Rees, Charlotte Saunders, Rachel Steele, Joanne Viner

13DS :

James Burroughes, Elizabeth Faulkner, Adam Juckes, Emma Mason, Claire Sowton, Adam Wheeler

Jane Bennett, Sukie Brown, Alastair Clarke, Susan Coll, Laura Martin, Nigel Morris, Samantha Passey, Rosalind Peters, Richard Stanford, Rebecca Todd

13JMW :

Lucinda Bayman, Matthew Blades, Emma Cooley, Richard Dean, Sarah Foster, Claire Parr, Anna Peacock, Luke Tarling, Bryony Taylor, Catherine Walton

13KAJ :

Richard Attwood, Edward Hall, Daisy Handy, Kevin Harris, Julie Hawkes, Benjamin Joyce, James Knott, Claire Newton, Oliver Raison, Phillippa Saint

13MAC :

John Alexander, Paul Hallahan, Maryann Jardine, Joanne Popplewell, Kathryn Pozzi, Nishpal Randhawa, Ruth Reid, Anna Spanswick, Claire Thomas

13PAD :

Sarah Blinkhorne, Mark Capron, Laura Fenton, Victoria Hadley, Sarah Hawthorne, David Lamb, James McArthur, Kelvin Meade, Gail Paddock, Andrew Rumbles

13PDB :

Marie Cross, Lucy Davies, Thomas Fenton, Kerry Fletcher, Katy Fletcher, Rachel Moore, Louise Smith

13PJO :

Daniel Barlow, Jack Boulton, Thomas Coles, Rachel Foster, Jennifer Gladstone, Anthony Jinks, Samuel Wilks

13RFD :

Alana Collis, Victoria Egan, Samantha Harvey, Kate Hemming, Ian Hickman, Neil Lake, Daniel Meredith, Stephen Mutton, Katherine Ross, Kirsty Stafford, Natalie Strong, Anton Thomas

13SRH :

Judith Archer, Richard Clayton, Rachel Collins, Stephen Cook, Stephanie Crewe, Charlotte Greening, Caroline Heath, Anna Jones, Nicola Stubbs, Eve Thould

Events and Happenings, 1997-98

Autumn Term 1997

The year began with 300 students in the Sixth Form, and , for the first time, 90 in Year 7, so that 630 pupils were in the school. Three-form entry seemed to settle in smoothly and as the year went on, it felt increasingly normal. We were further boosted by the best public examination results that the school has yet achieved.

The new three-storey extension was complete, housing **Maths** and **Modern Languages**, and plans were awaited for various other buildings. The school was to spend the year looking distinctly like a building site !

Drama continued to play a significant role in school life. Absolute Beginners presented *Oliver !*, with almost 100 students taking part. A more detailed report is included later in this magazine. Theatre trips included *King Lear*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Macbeth*, as well as A level Theatre Studies students being involved in three workshops led by professional actors. Abbey Wright (Year 12) played Cinderella in the pantomime at the Palace Theatre, Redditch, for a long and successful run.

Seventeen students visited Paris for four days to further their **French** studies, and **History** students were taken back to Tudor times by a series of lectures in Birmingham. **Home Economics** students also travelled to Birmingham for lectures, this time on topics directly related to their A level studies, including "Weight Control and Obesity". In the same subject area, Emma Blackman (Year 13) did extremely well to gain a place on an international conference in Helsinki, sponsored by the Engineering Marine Training Authority and the Smallpiece Trust.

Wells House has sponsored a child in Africa for a number of years, but he has now grown up and has a job. The charity involved asked whether the House would raise money for an orphanage they were setting up in Russia. The girls of 9S Wells took up the challenge enthusiastically and organised a sponsored silence. Almost 100 pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 took part and a considerable sum was raised.

Tesco **IT** vouchers enabled the school to buy a new portable computer called an Apple E-mate for the benefit of staff and pupils. We were also chosen as one of only 1,000 schools nationally to pilot the prototype National Grid for Learning, a government initiative aimed at bringing the educational benefits of the internet to all pupils and staff throughout the UK. This was an opportunity to gain insight into the scheme, and also help to shape its future structure and use. Paul Griffin (Year 7) won a lap top computer and £1,000 for the school in a competition to design a tower for the construction industry. He actually won £2,000 and chose to split this between his old school (Wooton Wawen Junior) and AGS. The money was used to buy IT equipment.

The school's Christian group, ACTS, collected items to put into shoe boxes full of sweets, toys, games and clothes which were packed during two lunchtime sessions and were sent to countries like Armenia, Bosnia and Romania.

Twenty-eight students were regular student librarians in the **Learning Resource Centre**. Four PCs were replaced by newer, faster machines, to enhance the use of over 80 CD ROMS which were available. Numbers of loans were up significantly on the previous year.

A number of students achieved successes in **Music**. Katie Walter (Year 7) was chosen to play in the National Children's Wind Orchestra, and both Lucy Tugwell (Year 11) and Claire Sowton (Year 12) took their Grade VIII exams.

Adam Jukes (Year 13) played with The National Youth Orchestra in their London production of *Bugsy Malone*.

There were also successes in the **Sports** area. Dan Barlow (Year 13), who is the First XV captain, was chosen to play for the Warwickshire U18 rugby team. Liz Wakeling and Hana Marshall (both Year 12) entered the Warwickshire Inter County cross country event. Over 70 parents, students and friends went to Leicester to watch England "A" play rugby against New Zealand.

Susie Coll (Year 13) returned from a two week trip to Oman with British Airways where she was taking part in the first stage of their Fulcrum Challenge. She had been chosen from a number of applicants from sixth formers nationwide who are studying **business**. There were three more stages to go.

Spring Term 1998

As term began, contractors were preparing our last major building programme as a GM school. Completion was not expected until late September.

Four Year 7 pupils, Emma Peters, Sarah Cockman, Katie Walter and Lorna Shaddick, took part in the Schools' **Library** Service reading competition. To see how they got on, see the Summer Term review ! The LRC itself continued to expand its stock, and announced loans numbered at 745 in January, compared to 490 last January. Thanks to the Parents' Association, new furniture has also been purchased, improving the appearance and comfort of the room. Laura Fitzgerald, Hannah MacDonald and Kathryn Smith attended a one-day course for student librarians at Stratford.

A Level Theatre Studies students presented two self-devised pieces of **drama** in February. One was a hilarious combination of slapstick and farce, the other a more thoughtful piece with more than a touch of the surreal. A packed Drama Studio enjoyed both performances enormously. Also in drama, Abbey Wright and Beccy Key (Y12) spent the half term week working with a professional theatre company at Warwick Arts Centre. Theatre Studies students attended workshops at The Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham.

Music, as always, was evident during the season. A number of students performed their own compositions at the Composers' Forum, and in the *Battle of the Bands* at Stratford Town Hall, "Blue Blood" (Alex Gold, Alex Caithness, David Hawkes, Jeremy Tupman and Sam Shearn) won first prize and therefore entry to the grand final later in the year. Adam Jukes was chosen to accompany

the National Youth Orchestra on their Easter tour of Europe. The "Harvine Band" ran a one-day workshop for the Year 12 music group.

The lower school ski trip to Italy took place during half term.

A group of sixth form **Business Studies** students attended a marketing management seminar at Disneyland, Paris! They also visited the British Embassy for briefings with First Secretaries responsible for trade and EU negotiations. The young enterprise company this year was "AURIGA", selling picture frames and bookmarks, ably led by managing director Charlotte Dencer.

The **French** Department took sixth form students to Warwick Arts Centre to see *Ma vie en rose*. Forty-one French students and their teachers arrived from Le Loraux-Botteraux for the annual exchange. They spent time in school, on various trips, and with their host families. Six Year 12 students took part in a work experience exchange to Saumur, including work in a hospital, a café, an office, shops and a swimming pool. The French students returned two weeks later, to complete a successful exchange offering excellent opportunities to use a foreign language in a real setting.

Rag Week raised over £3500 thanks to the efforts of numerous sixth formers.

The **Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme** saw its expedition season in full swing. Over forty students spent a weekend learning how to put up tents, cook with meths stoves and read a compass. The bronze expedition took place at Stratford racecourse. Nineteen students followed a fire service course, learning about the organisation of the fire service, the theory of combustion, methods of rescue, hose drills and methods of extinguishing small fires. By Easter, thirteen pupils had completed their Bronze award, Natalie Horsfield, Vaishali Nathan, Mark Capron and Nicola Stubbs had completed their Silver, and Jon Carrivick had completed his Gold award.

Various sporting achievements were notable during the term. James Wraight, Leon Lewis, Jon Wells, James Richardson and James Baty played for the district rugby team, and James Bowler, Dan Carrivick and Hana Marshall represented Warwickshire in the National Cross Country Championships at Cheltenham. The Year 9 netball team finished as runners up in the Alcester Police Tournament, and the Year 7 team reached the quarter finals of the Warwickshire Schools Tournament. Also, two sixth form students, Louisa Smith and Cathy Neville,

appeared on *Blue Peter*, being members of a skipping team (*The Blue and White Rope Skippers*) who had won the British Championships for their age group. Alexis Carter was selected to long jump for Warwickshire at the NIA. The rowing machines continued to be popular in the fitness room. Annie Vater won the South Warwickshire cross country junior girls race.

Summer Term 1998

As some of the new buildings began to look somewhat near finished, normal life at AGS continued.

In **music** Adam Jukes won an award and a cash prize as Warwickshire County Council's outstanding brass player. The Associated Board exams took place, involving over 250 students from AGS and other schools in the area.

Warwickshire **Library** service ran its Inter Schools Book Quiz for Year 7 pupils. Our team (Sarah Cockman, Emma Peters, Lorna Shaddick and Katie Walter) answered questions on given books and fiction in general. Having reached the final in Leamington, they duly won the whole competition, receiving books and a shield for the school.

Food Technology students benefitted from a trip to Cadbury's World, and from visits to the Meat and Livestock Commission.

Thirty-three students and teachers from the Carl Duisberg Gymnasium in Wuppertal arrived for the **German** exchange. A range of visits was enjoyed, as well as a game of football against the English !

In **sport** there was one unusual achievement with the news that Rebecca Kendry had been representing Warwickshire at Under 25 flat green (outdoor) bowls. On a more usual front, pupils from years 7, 8 and 9 took part in the South Warwickshire Schools athletics meeting, and a party of Year 9 girls spent an afternoon at the Edgbaston Priory DFS Classic tennis tournament. Four students (Hana Marshall, Liz Wakeling, Gemma Collins and Adam Collins) represented the county in the Midlands Multi-events Championship. The wet weather caused almost a complete wipe out of cricket features !

Drama was, as always, evident around the school with the Absolute Beginners end of term soir  e entitled *Around the World in 80 Minutes*. Over 50 students and parents went to see *The Phantom of the Opera* in Birmingham on the last Thursday of term.

Twenty-two pupils from Year 8 and 56 from Year 7 took part in the *Maths Challenge*. Ten Gold certificates were awarded along with twenty-seven Silver and fourteen Bronze. William Belfield and Nick Johnson (both Y7) were declared the best in the school.

Year 9 Visit to Snibston Discovery Park

The coach journey was one hour and twenty minutes long and when we got there, we were given some sheets to fill in. There were different sections of the museum, consisting of the historic areas, the colliery tour and an exhibition called *Light Fantastic* which had an ultra-violet light section. A member of staff drew on our hands with a special pen which glowed under the UV light.

After that we went to the gift shop which was very expensive and then on to the historic section where we began our quiz sheets. We heard about the coal mines in the 19th century and the horse and carts etc.

The colliery tour was a tour of the surface of a previously working coal mine. The guy who showed us around (who was probably called Fred) had a thing about saying "Believe You Me" all of the time which the group found slightly humorous. Anyway Fred showed us round the building and we found out about the dead canaries and the carbon monoxide in the mines.

We didn't actually have enough time to do the quiz sheets and look around at the same time. Needless to say, our class was extremely annoyed to find out that we didn't have enough time to go into the play area which looked very big.

However, the canteen was a big disappointment as it wasn't in the main body of the building and it took a few minutes to walk there.

Overall, it was educational, but we just didn't have enough time to look around at everything.

Amanda Howe and Sarah Westmacott, 9m

Mont Blanc Expedition July 1998

The twelve-thirty a.m. "get up and go" time didn't come a moment too soon for me and my companions who'd suffered from pre-summit nerves turning our three hour rest into, what seemed to be, the longest night ever. Clothes were hurriedly thrown over bodies, in the torch lit dormitory, so as not to wake the other groups.

I picked up my rucksack and descended to the boot room where I prepared myself to enter the outside world.

We'd decided (or should I say been persuaded) to leave before the usual 1.00 a.m. breakfast time thus avoiding inevitable log jams on the narrow sections. So, on an empty stomach, I waddled along the verandah in my rigid boots to the edge of the glacier. Here I attached my crampons while Jim, our guide, roped all the members of the group together.

Come 12.55 a.m., our group, Jim, Jon, Paul and I left the Cosmique Hut first, leaving fresh indentations in the bullet-proof ice. Walking along I noticed how isolated we were with only a torch strapped to our forehead for guidance and comfort. All around there was silence, except for the crisp crunching of ice under foot. Not even the wind murmured in the brightly, star lit sky. The lights of Chamonix were clearly visible 10,000 feet below us, situated in the bottom of a dark, eerie, motionless valley.

An hour on and we'd crossed the Col du Midi and started ascending Mont Blanc du Tacul. Near the top the gradient of the slope was such that we halted to climb an ice chimney overhanging the Bergschrund crevasse. As we manoeuvred gingerly over the Ice Bridge at the foot of the wall, I peered into the gaping crack but my torch beam was immediately swallowed up by the darkness. While waiting my turn to climb the wall, I looked back into the wilderness, and to my amazement between us and the now distant search lights at the hut were at least a dozen groups of climbers. They looked like clusters of four or five flickering candles, weaving around us like caterpillars.

I started to ascend the ice chimney, which would be a potential bottleneck to the following groups. My hands grew numb as they grabbed the icy rope for grip. Subsequently at the top I put on a pair of waterproof gloves bringing instant feeling back to my fizzing fingers. This comfort was short lived however as pain soon came back with a vengeance when my head smashed into an overhanging piece of ice. It occurred while traversing along the ice ledge above the crevasse, sending stars racing through my already throbbing head due to the high altitude. I'd vowed not to kick up a fuss so I didn't let the others know I was in pain.

We started down to Col Maudit before climbing again, this time Mont Maudit. Midway up just as it got tough going, my torch, that had been growing dimmer and dimmer, finally extinguished itself in a flickering frenzy leaving me

temporarily blinded. My guide Jim informed me the slope was too dangerous to hang around on so I carried on in the dark, stumbling over everything and anything. We came to another ice climb, which I had to feel my way up, placing my hands in Jon's foot holes. The wind hit me as I climbed over the ridge leaving me gasping for air. Once I got my breath back, I found some fresh batteries for my head torch and then put my fleece on to keep me warm.

We descended into the Col de la Brenva, head on into the storm, before starting the final ascent up Mont Blanc itself. As we ascended the sun started to emerge from beneath the horizon. And as the sun rose so the wind grew stronger and stronger hampering our already slow progress. My knees were weakening. My legs were getting stiffer. Bracing myself against the wind sapped all my energy. Every time a gust whistled past I'd be flung off track two paces to the left, bombarded by air borne ice fragments. They stung my legs like sand on a windy beach while small ice crystals blew inside my hood plastering my eyelashes like concrete. Ice even started to form inside my glasses to the point where they had to be removed, as I couldn't see where I was going.

As time progressed my knees occasionally gave way, leaving me lying on the ice not wanting to move. At one point I even resorted to crawling on hands and knees, so slow yet gruelling was the pace. I somehow found the strength to continue, not wanting to cause the rest of the group to turn round so close to the summit.

Once the summit was in sight it was head down right to the top. At 7.55a.m. on Thursday 30th July, there I was standing shivering on the summit of Mont Blanc the highest point in Western Europe at 4808m, surrounded by colourful flags being violently ripped apart by the 70mph winds. The joy of having made it was overshadowed by the guide's customary talk, which reminded me that we were only half way, for we still had to get down. After a quick snapshot of the views and a drink of water, which had started to freeze inside my rucksack, we started on the long arduous journey down the way we'd come up, but as any guide will tell you this is the most dangerous part. Going downhill was better on my knees and I started to feel revitalised until every so often a gust would help me on my descent sending me off course.

Once at Mont Maudit we eagerly descended the same ice wall we'd climbed earlier to find some shelter from the wind. Midway, Jon's crampon came off and

he had to grab it quickly before it cascaded down on the climbers below. Once all down safely, Jim started to coil the rope. Suddenly there was an explosive bang that echoed around the valley. I swung round and stared, horrified to see a serac crashing down the mountain at an astonishing speed. As the avalanche hit a lip in the glacier it became air borne, totally cutting off our path back. Once the ice cloud had settled, climbers started running to the scene, digging frantically with bare hands for any sign of life. People were shouting to each other in foreign languages, distressed by what had happened. We made a speedy descent and assisted in keeping survivors warm that had been found paralysed, set like concrete, in the solid ice. A helicopter came and took the injured off one by one to safety. There were conflicting reports on the number of people involved but once we'd done our bit we continued on our journey home in silence, somewhat shocked by the events that had occurred.

While resting on a narrow ledge overhanging a crevasse, the same one where I smashed my head on the way up, I nodded off and didn't come round until it was time to move. Somewhat overcome by what had happened, I was now mentally and physically exhausted.

We clambered into the cable car station at 3.30p.m. thinking how lucky we were to return safely. We joined the long queue in amongst all the tourists, which eventually got us down to catch the 6.50p.m. bus home - yes that's right over three hours of queuing on bleeding blistered feet - painful and frustrating is a bit of an understatement.

That evening we celebrated our achievement. It was my first meal that day; having survived the previous twenty-seven hours on a packet of frozen chewitts and boy did I enjoy it!

Two months on and the Cosmique Hut has been closed as warm weather has melted the permafrost causing subsidence to the foundations leading to substantial structural damage. Also Chamonix guides have cancelled all guided ascents of Mont Blanc due to an escalating death toll on the mountain!

Daniel Carrivick, Y13

Around The World in 80 Minutes - Absolute Beginners **Anthology Evening, Wednesday 15th July**

As has become traditional at the end of the school year, Wednesday 15th July saw the Absolute Beginners drama society's end of year anthology evening. Cunningly entitled "Around the World in Eighty Minutes" the show was compiled from songs, poems and plays from all over the world.

Highlights of the show included excellent renditions of "One Day More" from *Les Miserables* and such classics as "Sabbath Prayer", and "I'd like to teach the world to sing". Also included were pieces such as Monty Python's "I'm a Lumberjack" and Abba's "Waterloo", all of which were performed with a great deal of professionalism.

The show was also the chance for last year's leavers to take their final bow, if you'll excuse the pun! There were memorable last performances from members such as Duncan Thomas as well as the participation of long-term members of the society, Dave Last and Jon Morgan.

As has become usual the show was pretty much sold out and difficulties were encountered trying to find seats for the massive audience that attended. Members of the school, parents and the general public flocked to see the show ensuring that the evening was a great success. All of the proceeds made from the production will help to fund future Absolute Beginners productions.

All that remains now is to await next year's production, for which plans are already in progress. 1999 will be the tenth anniversary of the Absolute Beginners drama society, so look out for something a little special!

S. Kingscott, Y12

Learning Resource Centre - Annual Report 1997-98

This year has, as always, been a busy one in the Learning Resource Centre with classes coming in for research, and early introductions for both Year 7 (now three classes instead of two) and for the Lower Sixth, promoting the use of the wealth of information available.

Book issues for all students and staff for the period September 1997 to the end of May 1998 stand at 5,204 with 62 book reservations during the period. There were

444 books issued on short overnight loan during this time, in addition. This compares well with 2,952 for the period September 1994 to the end of May 1995 (when LRC records were first kept).

Accommodation

A donation by the Parents' Association in September 1997, has enabled us to select and purchase some new furniture for the upper level of the LRC. After much consideration the old wooden teacher tables have been replaced by five grey 'marble' topped tables, and twenty 'claret' coloured chairs by Reska Products Ltd. Six student operator chairs by Tubular Furniture Ltd. in matching fabric, are in use for the computers, which are now housed on new 'light oak' benching. Both types of seating offer much more support for the students' backs while they study, and the overall effect is light, attractive and welcoming.

Events

The Scholastic Book Fair held for a week from 26th September 1997 was very successful, and Years 7 and 8 were allowed to visit it during English lessons. £110.16 was taken in commission from the sales, which we used for forty-six books (mostly fiction), chosen from the Fair on the last day. The Design a Book Cover competition opened to coincide with World Book Day on 23rd April 1998, was announced in a full assembly and was followed by a Pointless Week event, for Years 7 and 8. This involved the banning of the Point series for the duration of the event, and with the help of the English department, pupils were partnered, then interviewed the partner on their reading habits and favourite authors.

Times were appointed for the classes to come to the LRC, when each pupil chose a book for their partner to read and then review on brightly coloured sheets and cards produced and designed by us. The purpose was to help them take a 'risk' on a new author or genre and encourage the less enthusiastic readers. Many of the pupils gave high ratings out of ten for the book selected for them, so even this was clearly enjoyable for many. The original idea by myself and the Stratford Girls Grammar School Librarian was developed at a course at Warwickshire School Library Service on motivating teenage readers, in November 1997. It has also been used successfully at SGGS.

The Inter Schools Book Quiz, run by the Warwickshire School Library Service for a Year 7 team of four pupils from each school, took place from January with four girls reading two books each month for three months and answering

question on them, and general fiction questions.

For the first time our team reached the finals at Manor Hall, Leamington on 19th May 1998 and won against the other three teams (Stratford Girls Grammar, Etone Community School and George Eliot School). The girls in our team were Sarah Cockman, Emma Peters, Lorna Shaddick and Katie Walter. The girls received four signed books each and a shield for the school.

Conclusion

It has been a very busy and rewarding year with more interest from volunteer pupils, greater use as reflected in the issue figures, and an improved look to the LRC with the new furniture.

The building work since Easter with the prospect of worse to come has been a drawback, but we hope to move on into next year with a comfortable and improved study area and a good working atmosphere.

RSB

Year 8 Invade Mary Arden's House, Block Week 1997

8.45 am : Reach school by bus, get off and head up to the form room.

8.55 am : Mr Watson takes the register and sends us up to room 09

9.00 am : Worksheets and maps are handed out. Mrs Sagi tells us to be on our best behaviour, as if we wouldn't! We split into two forms and then divide ourselves into little groups of no more than four.

9.25 am : Everybody gets into the coaches, 8s in one and 8m in the other. Mrs Whitmore, Mr Kopp and Miss Petit join 8m while, Mr Thatcher, Mrs Sagi and Mr Layton accompany 8s.

9.30 am : The coaches set off, lots of chatting.....

9.55 am : The coaches arrive, still lots of chatting as expected.....

10.00am : 8m have a lecture on the household. A bit slow getting started and a bit long towards the end but we learn a lot about clothes and food when Robert Arden (Mary Arden's dad) was alive. 8s do worksheet.

11.00am : 8m have a tour of the household after a very cold wait outside... We learn where a number of sayings came from e.g. "Bed and Board", which was

when guests slept on the table, usually a board. The sayings just kept coming out, reducing some members of staff to tears and giggling. 8s have a lecture on the household.

12.00pm : Lunch, a time where staff and pupils mingle.....Ahem!

12.45pm : 8m split into their groups and carry out the investigation on the worksheets. 8s have a chilled wait and then the tour of the house.

1.45pm : Everybody gets together and Mrs Sagi tells us that we can now finish our worksheets or go on the nature trail, we could even watch the Falconer as long as we didn't bother members of the public!

2.30pm : Everybody piles onto the coaches again after a brief encounter of the gift shop kind. It's too cold to stay any longer!

2.55pm : We arrive back at school and go over worksheet answers.

3.40pm : The buses arrive to take us home.

4.30pm : At home I think and look back over the day.

Jenny Tugman, 8M

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Report 1997-8

Although there have been no helicopters in sight, it has been a very busy year in the life of Alcester Grammar D of E ! In September, thirty-three Year 10 pupils began Bronze and they have all worked extremely hard towards completing the four sections of their award. As in previous years, P.C. Benjamin held a Police course in school for the service section of the award, which fifteen pupils attended. Also on offer this year was a Fire Service Course at Stratford Fire Station, where pupils had hands-on experience learning about the Fire Brigade and how to deal with fires.

There were seven expeditions in which 75 pupils took part during the year. In the Autumn term there were two expeditions to the Howgill Fells where Dr and Mrs Albon assessed groups for Silver and Gold. The Bronze practice expedition found thirty-three pupils camping at Stratford racecourse, little knowing that five days later the racecourse would be under three feet of water after the Good Friday Floods! The Assessed expedition in the Malverns a month later proved to be a very exciting weekend for one group in particular (see below) with all the

groups passing with flying colours and producing some excellent reports on their "purpose work". There were two silver practice expeditions in Snowdonia in May and July and the year was completed with a wet, but successful, Gold expedition in the Black Mountains. Many thanks to the Hughes, Cowells, Mr Micklethwaite, Mr Simpson, Miss Pettit, and particularly to Dan Carrivick and Nicola Stubbs (Year 13) who helped out on expeditions and at the training weekend.

During the year fourteen pupils completed their Bronze awards, four their Silver and John Carrivick his Gold award. Mark Capron, Nicola Stubbs and James Burroughs will hopefully all be completing their Gold awards in the coming months too.

DCB

D of E Bronze Expedition Report

To be at school for 8 o'clock on a Saturday morning was in itself rather a challenge, but nevertheless all of our group made it there looking somewhat weary, but looking forward to the rest of the weekend.

Having distributed the equipment and having found our rucksacks were not too heavy, we climbed aboard the minibus and arrived in Malvern one hour later.

We set off on our walk, not quite knowing what the rest of the day would bring! We should have guessed our fate on reaching the first church, Eastnor, on which we were going to do our purpose work. We had decided to study stained glass windows at the training weekend, but finding the graveyard swarming with wedding guests, steeples seemed a more sensible option.

It was while walking through the forest down a slight hill, that the most memorable part of our expedition happened. Ian, a good map-reader in our group, stumbled over a tree root and fell. We expected him to get up and carry on but instead he stayed on the ground. He said his ankle hurt, so we had a look at it and were amazed at how much it had already swollen. He was in agony as we pulled his boots off as gently as possible, so it was obvious that his walking weekend was over, well not quite. Not really knowing where we were, three of us set off running, after giving Ian two paracetamol to try and stop the pain, leaving behind another three of our group. We ran for what seemed like miles (about

three kilometres) not having a clue where we were going. We tried to aim for our phone, but the many cross paths confused us, so we just ran. After a while we spotted a farm a few fields away and it was down hill- YES. Thinking they must have a phone, we ran towards it, vaulting over gates and trying not to damage the crops. On reaching the farm we were greeted by two big, black, snarling dogs, who did not seem very pleased to see us. Someone called the dogs back inside, and running round to the front of the farmhouse we saw a Greg Rusedski look alike who looked a bit bemused at our very fast and breathless explanation of what we were doing trespassing on his farm. He said that we could use the phone !

It really felt good to be able to pass on the responsibility of this accident to the teachers to know that they would know what to do, and how to help Ian. However, the first two emergency numbers were mobile phones and would not allow us to talk to them. So we phoned Mr Shearn for help - he was out ! We got a bit cross at this, well, very cross, but we left an urgent message with Mr Bruce telling him the grid reference of the farm and its phone number, not knowing when he would hear it. We couldn't say where Ian was, as we didn't know which path we were actually on.

The very kind farmer's wife brought us a big drink of Ribena each, and while wondering what to do, the son told us that he had a one man quad bike that would go through the forest. Three girls perched on the back of this bike with nothing to hold onto was not very easy, especially when he drove it at what seemed to be 100mph. Racing through the fields, we also realised that we didn't know exactly where we had left the others, so with Ian in mind, we shouted as loud as possible to see if we could hear them. (That was the only country code rule we broke - making noise). We did, thankfully, and on reaching them we saw that a very professional bandage had been put on. Our training had paid off. Ian's camp was dismantled and we hoisted him on to the back of the bike, picked up all of our stuff and again went back to the farm.

By this time, Mr Bruce had phoned the farm and had started coming towards it. We actually saw him run! It was then that we realised that we had lost the inner of the boys' tent. Oh dear, Mr Bruce was not happy.

The farm people took Ian back to the campsite, we had our lunch (3.00) and Mr Bruce said we would have to carry on walking. This was just not fair. We had

run for miles, saved one of our group, been snarled at by dogs, and now we had to venture uphill to finish the day. We did so, not realising that we were being tracked, and that Mr Bruce could hear everything that we said (sorry Mr Bruce). From then on our group stuck even closer together, and we did look after Jeremy who was now the only boy.

We were so relieved when the minibus pulled up opposite the church and in it the merciful Mr and Mrs Hughes, telling us that we had finished for the day. It was about time we had to get to camp anyway.

We pitched our tent well and it had quite a bit of shelter from the back hedge. Our cooked tea went down very well and being very tired we had an early night, hoping that tomorrow wouldn't be as bad.

The second day brought more, though less dramatic activity. Looking back we did actually enjoy it. The extra happenings just made it more exciting. We were very tired ! Our group worked really well together, and better as time went on. We had a good team spirit and got there in the end, despite everything !

Group members were : Jenny Gilbert, Beth Tash, Gina Brueton, Mary Richards, Katherine Mann, Jeremy Thomas, Ian Childs.

Beth Tash, Y10

Saumur - Work Experience Exchange - 1998

With a few tears and a lot of anxiety, we left Manor Hall, Leamington at 5pm, Friday 27th March, 1998. We had never met our partners before and the prospect of working in "everyday France" for a week was more than a little daunting!

We arrived at the "Chateau de Saumur", with no tears and a surprising lack of anxiety after meeting our partners, who were all incredibly friendly and hospitable throughout the week.

Monday morning was the beginning of the working week for us. Couchemar ! (nightmare). But I think I speak for most of us when I say it was one of the most interesting weeks I've ever had. There was an extremely large array of placements, from cafés to schools, and hospitals to swimming pools. Obviously we all came back with some very interesting stories, and there is evidently a large difference between 'A' level listening texts and those of the real world!

It astounded me how much you can learn in just one week, but the fact that you must eat, breathe and sleep French 24 hours a day is a large factor. It is also very tiring and a few times I wanted to scream at not being able to say exactly what I wanted to.

The food was wonderful, the wine was fantastic and I'm now lost without the coffee ! I could also get used to 2^{1/2} hour lunch breaks and perhaps being the centre of attention!

Back in reality, I've realised just how much vocabulary I've learnt (whether proper or not!) and how much about the french way of life.

I spent an unforgettable week in Saumur and can't wait to get back again, just to improve my French of course!

Janine Mitchell, Y12

A Year at AGS - Getting to Know Britain and Its People

My name is Maria-Annabel Hanke and I am from Halberstadt, a town in the eastern part of Germany. I came to England for a year to go to school to learn English.....

I can still remember what it was like, when I came here eleven months ago, in August 1997. I was (and probably still am) the German girl at Alcester Grammar School, who didn't know anybody and couldn't speak any proper English.

But that changed very soon. I mean that I didn't know anybody. I made some really good friends, who stood by me through the whole year and were always there when it got tough. Although it was quite "painful" from time to time, when they took the mick out of my accent.

Everything at Alcester Grammar School was so very different from my school back in Germany. Take just the fact that German A - level students have to study 10 subjects, including Math, History, German, at least one foreign language and either Chemistry, Biology, or Physics, which are compulsory and are therefore disliked by everybody. Here in Britain I had to choose four subjects only. So I only did what I really, really like : Modern History, English Language, Theatre Studies and Art. For P.E. I chose something peculiar : *golf*, which was a good laugh for everybody back home.

Modern History probably was the hardest of all subjects. The way of studying history here is just so different and at first I couldn't get used to the detailed studies. In Germany we don't get much detail in our history lessons. And above all Mr Thatcher started the subject with the topic *Germany before, during and after the Second World War*, and hardly anybody in the Modern History course talked to me. But they all got used to me and that changed soon, too.

I found English Language very hard as well, because my English just wasn't good enough to join in the discussions, which made me pretty upset. But in the end I managed to take my AS exam and now I am hoping for at least a pass grade result. Theatre Studies simply is my favourite subject. The people in the group were just brilliant; I loved going on trips to see productions or attending workshops. We did some serious work too, but still the lessons were good fun. Unfortunately I won't be able to carry on doing drama at school, we just don't have it at schools in Germany.

Art was difficult for me to begin with, because I had to sort of "learn" how to paint. So my first painting, which was called *A Personal Disaster* indeed was a disaster. But I got more confident and I really began to enjoy it. I also liked going on trips down to London to visit exhibitions and art galleries.

I was very busy with my school work. I had to put a lot of hard work into every single subject to keep up with everybody else. But it kept me busy and away from being too homesick and missing my parents. If I wasn't at school I did something else, of course. I joined two Absolute Beginners productions, which I enjoyed very much. Both rehearsing and performing were good fun and I'll never ever forget the struggle of putting up a show within a few days. Amazingly Mrs Green always did a really good job and in the end it worked out.

My weekends I spent with friends going to parties or to the cinema. So I got to know British youth culture, which again is very different from the German. I went to London and Birmingham a lot, because I enjoy big, busy, hectic cities. They are just so different from Alcester and Studley.....

I can say that I have learned a lot during my year here at Alcester Grammar School. I am so glad that I had, and took, the opportunity to go abroad to learn English, to make lots of new friends and to get to know a different culture in detail. This year went by so quickly. I am going to be very sad when I have to leave in two weeks time, but I am taking lots of wonderful memories and

experiences back to Germany. Now I have to say good bye, see you soon and
Thanks for having me !!

Maria-Annabel Hanke, Y12

Y9 Girls' Tennis Trip to Edgbaston, Friday 12th June

After an hour's coaching by a professional coach, we managed to get seats in centre courts. We saw Steffi Graf finishing her match off against M. Serna. Unfortunately, we only saw a couple of games but Steffi was amazing. It is a shame she didn't get further in Wimbledon.

We also saw the British Number One, Sam Smith, playing doubles with J. Ward. They were playing C. Barclay and K. A. Guse. Unfortunately they didn't win but some of us were lucky enough to get Sam Smith's autograph. We are now planning to sell them for a huge fortune ! It was a most enjoyable day.

Alison Belfield and Becky Edwards, Y9

Oliver! - Absolute Beginners, November 20-22nd 1997

After literally days of rehearsal following the gruelling but well practiced Mrs Green schedule (turnup, lose your handbag, go to the pub), *Oliver!* was (almost) ready for performance by the opening night. Despite minor technical hitches leading up to the production - such as our tower being declared unsafe (tell us something we don't know!) and London Bridge falling down - *Oliver!* was widely considered a success by cast and audience, as well as the wise men from *The Alcester Chronicle*.

The young men brought in from Junior Production land were all excellent - remembering most of their words - especially Rohan Talbot in the title role as the young orphan boy thrown out of the workhouse by the ferocious Mr Bumble (Steven J. Barrett) and the even more ferocious Widow Corney (Emily Villis). Duncan Thomas picked a pocket or two and reviewed the situation with great panache as Fagin, so much so that he revived the final song in the Christmas Pantomime with a character that seemed vaguely familiar.....

Playing to a packed house every night, Abbey Wright's Nancy got a huge ovation from the audience for the showstopping 'As Long As He Needs Me', the song about her evil lover Bill Sykes (Stephen Dunn), who eventually gets his

comeuppance when he is shot (although the firing of the gun and the 'bang' never quite co-incided!). Widely considered to be Absolute Beginners' most successful production to date, *Oliver !* was a terrific show to be involved in and - as usual - not bad for five weeks rehearsal!

Stephen Mutton, Y13

The Golden Masque of Agamemnon

War, Thunder, Ritual Sacrifice and Assassination. The Alcester Grammar School Canteen ? No not this time! This was just the school's drama contingent as they performed the Senior production *The Golden Masque of Agamemnon* which tookplace on 19th, 20th, and 21st of March.

The play was a dramatic tale of ancient Greece, where society was divided into tribes who were far from the stereotypical pantheon-dwelling democrats we are used to seeing. Set against the background of The Trojan War (Circa 1500 BC) the story follows the mighty leader of the Greek army, Agamemnon, played by Tim Port, as he does battle against the Armies of Troy.

Trapped on the beaches of Aulis by high winds, Agamemnon sacrifices his daughter Iphigenia to the Gods in order for them to grant him the right wind to sail to Troy. That granted, the Greek troops are locked into a ten-year siege of the city before they finally return victorious to their home, Mycenae. However, having been cursed by the gods, all does not end well for Agamemnon. His apparently loving wife, Clytemnestra, who was played by Abbey Wright, plots against and murders the king with the aid of her lover Aegisthus (Adrian Springer). But all does not end there. Seven years later the eldest Son of Agamemnon, Orestes (Steven J. Barrett) and fellow warrior Pylades (Tom Luxton) return home to avenge the king's death, successfully doing so. The story is all nicely rounded off by the discovery that the gods have spared Iphigenia, allowing her to be rescued by her brother. The action is overseen by narrator and servant to Agamemnon, Thybius, played by yours truly.

Judging by the characters' names alone, the production was no mean feat to pull off. But it was done with a fantastic amount of success. There were excellent individual performances from all the principal players, as well as the supporting

cast. The nature of the play was shifted perfectly from the comical blundering of Odysseus (Peter Royston) to the terrifying murder scene to the fanatical chanting of the chorus. All of which helped to create a truly terrifying experience.

The technical side of the play was also marvellously produced, with all manner of lighting and sound effects on hand to enhance the performance even further. Also present was a team of live musicians who provided the tribal music dramatic enough to put fear into the gods themselves. Also worth a mention was the excellent array of body paintings that were used to add the finishing touches to the warriors (as if the front row weren't terrified enough already!)

All three evenings of the production were well attended and commercially successful, as well as once again showing off the excellent range of artistic talent that exists within the school.

S. Kingscott, Y12

French Exchange

The French exchange, as with most school trips, was a complete success this year. We were lucky enough to go when the weather was at its best, and with excellent company our spirits were kept high twenty-four hours a day.

Meeting our partners and their families was as expected very tense, but Mr Wells' excellent teaching skills enabled us to make accurate conversation! We went on multiple excursions, which were all thoroughly enjoyable. The best in our opinion was our sea theme trip, as we went to the beautiful town of Guérande where we were able to absorb a true French town and the souvenirs it had to offer. We were also able to try the traditional French crêpe which apparently is "a must" if you visit this part of France. On the same day we also went to the coast, which most of us had been dreaming of since the day that we arrived. Unfortunately, to our horror, the sea was stone cold and we had gone from one extreme to the other. As always, not all trips were as good as hoped, as the wine museum on the first day was slightly tedious for us especially on a hot and sticky afternoon, but Mr Wells deserves a big hand for his brilliant interpretations and his amazing patience.

The time that we spent in the French school was extremely interesting as the difference between France and England was portrayed with their awful (I'm sorry

but it had to be said) canteen system where we were given a slimy fish, a bowl of lettuce, some mushy cucumber, sloppy asparagus and a breast of chicken - give me good old British beef any day!

This brilliant French exchange trip could not have been possible without the wonderful leadership of the teachers. We will never forget Mrs Cowell's cheery morning grin, and Mr Wells' strange attempt at humour and Mr Cowell's eagerness at speaking French. But one cannot finish without saying how well behaved and flexible the students were, as without everyone's co-operation the exchange would not have been possible.

Emily Green and Ria Bentley, 9m

A Summer In Brazil

Last January, I successfully applied to *CRUSOE* (Crusaders' Overseas Expeditions) to go to Brazil to help street children. On 1st August 1997 I arrived at Heathrow Airport at 7.30 a.m. to catch my flight to Rio de Janeiro via Lisbon. I was meant to be meeting three other members of my team who I had only met once before. We eventually worked out who was who and said our farewells to friends and families. We were to be the first group to fly out and a day later we would be joined by the other nine.

We spent our day in Rio fighting off the jetlag and doing a bit of sightseeing, such as visiting Copacabana Beach, and at the end of a long day we were pleased to be able to sleep on a church floor for a few hours before picking up the others the next morning. Eventually we all met up and travelled together by minibus to Belo Horizonte, which took over 10 hours.

For the next thirty days we were based on a farm outside the city where street children were taken to be rehabilitated before being rehoused. They have come from lives of sexual abuse, drugs, violence and crime and it was a great inspiration to see first hand the changes that have occurred in the children on the farm compared to on the street. It took a few days to get used to the heat, showering in a cubicle 1.5m² (including sink and toilet), not being able to put toilet paper down the toilet and living out of a rucksack with some degree of organisation. We spent our days working with the street children by helping them with school work (a novelty to them!) and playing lots of sports - especially football. A lot of our time was also taken up doing manual work like de-roofing a

house, renovating the boys' sleeping quarters and clearing a rocky site for construction. We also decided to spend our free time (there wasn't a lot!) building a treehouse out of bamboo.

The whole experience was unbelievable, I saw things that shocked me and learned things about myself and team that I had not realised before. The friends you make on something like this become lifelong friends and you will always share very special memories. I can honestly say that it has been the best experience in my life so far.

Anne Kerr, Y13

A Unique Experience

Pick up any holiday brochure or tour guide, and you won't have to read far before coming across the word "unique". The word is glibly used to describe anywhere slightly different or unusual, and the true sense of the word has thus been lost. But soaking up the atmosphere of Israel, I found myself using the word more than once during a trip which was to prove one of the most memorable of my life. There is literally nowhere on earth remotely like it. Its magic and power rest on its significance, both religious and historical, on world events.

The majority of my experience of Israel was of one of the many kibbutz that are in the country. This initially appealed to me as it was a very cheap way of experiencing a country such as Israel. There are two main organisations in Britain that will find you a place on a kibbutz, *Project 67* and *Kibbutz Representatives*. I went with the former and found them to be very good.

After booking my place I was obviously very excited about it and felt a great sense of adventure. In the weeks leading up to my departure I started to get a little bit more nervous, particularly as it was my first time flying! Arriving in Israel was excellent and we were immediately met by our volunteer leader from the kibbutz where we were allocated, along with a few of the volunteers. The great thing about living and working on a kibbutz is that there are volunteers between the ages 18-35 from all over the world. It's easy for us Brits, as the common language spoken between the volunteers is English. This is also the second language in Israel, after Hebrew spoken by the Jews, and Arabic spoken by the Arabs.

Don't expect to earn any money while on the kibbutz as it is all voluntary work, except for a small allowance, usually paid fortnightly. Be prepared to work hard and sometimes long hours, Sometimes the work can be very rewarding and enjoyable. My particular job was just that, as I was working with the cattle on the farm. I had to start at 6.00 a.m. every morning except when I was on the morning milking shift, when I started at 3.30 a.m.! The 200 cows needed to be milked three times a day and two of us worked on each shift. I know when I was first told I would be having to milk the cows I had a visions of a stool and a bucket, but it was not like that at all and we actually had quite sophisticated equipment to do the job.

I felt that my time on the kibbutz went very quickly and at the end I didn't feel that I had had nearly enough. One of the trips I did manage to do, and it is a must if you ever go to Israel, is Jerusalem. This most majestic of cities has been fought for, and fought over, for thousands of years, mainly because it has huge importance for the three most influential religions in the world, Christianity, Islam and Judaism. Each have their own places of worship, the staggering thing being that all these places are literally a few hundred yards from each other. It is as if God decided to create an all-encompassing religious theme park and called it *Jerusalem*. When you see the city, feel its atmosphere and soak up its history, you start to understand why everyone wants to own it and why both the Jews and the Arabs are still fighting for the right to claim it as their capital.

For some cities, however big and attractive they initially seem, three or four days would easily suffice to find out all about them - by the time I left Jerusalem, I felt as though I had only scratched the surface of a truly inspiring city.

My whole experience of both the kibbutz and of Israel in general was truly amazing. There are many ways to describe the kibbutz way of life and the experience you will have in Israel, but I think the one adjective I would use is.....UNIQUE!

Chris Henderson, 1995-97

The AGS Alps Expedition 1998

After a year of preparation, the summer holidays saw six intrepid sixth formers and Mr and Mrs Cowell embarking on a long awaited expedition to the French and Swiss Alps. The aim of the trip was to experience life as mountaineers,

traversing glaciers, avoiding crevasses and if possible making our way to the summit of several 4000 metre peaks. It promised to be a trip of a life time, and certainly fulfilled all expectations.

It took three long hot days to reach the French Alps. Renditions of Mr Cowell's 60s record collections however, helped to pass the time. Our first destination was Les Contamines, a small Alpine town near Chamonix. The week was spent walking, below the snow line, conquering many of the local peaks, whilst also helping to improve our fitness for the adventures that lay ahead. In addition we were able to hold the AGS crazy golf open championships - victory going to Wells House! However for some of us the daily chores of cooking and washing etc. were the ultimate challenge. The realisation that it is not possible to survive two and a half weeks on £7 worth of spaghetti hoops was a great surprise to the male of the species! Our time here passed quickly and excitement and nerves gradually mounted as seven days later it was time to leave the safety of Les Contamines for Arolla, a village high in the Swiss Alps.

For stage 2 we were joined by our guides, Dave Walsh and Jim Blythe. Dave had just recently returned from a successful attempt on Mt. Everest. Having the guides now allowed us to embark into new and far more dangerous territory. Our week was spent traversing the glaciers of the Swiss Alps. All being novices to mountaineering, our first day was spent learning the new techniques and skills required for survival. However, as we tentatively took our first steps onto the ice, slipping and sliding around, much to the amusement of Mr Cowell, we began to wonder what we'd let ourselves in for. The reality of it really hit us. After twelve months of preparation we were really standing on a glacier. We didn't have much time to be nervous though, and after spending just a few hours on the glacier learning how to cut footsteps and climb with our ice axes, we were ready to face the elements.

Next day dawn broke, training was behind us and we were set to undertake our first peak and, just as importantly, experience our first night in a mountain hut. Our destination was Mt. Brule (3640m). Prior to reaching the top there was a hard day of climbing to do. We had left England feeling quite fit, but after spending the day ascending to 3400m, we all wished we were just a little fitter. Tired and weary, we would really have liked to have ended the day in a hot bath. However this not the case. What we found half way up Mt. Brule was far from

the comfort of home, but just as exciting (I think). We spent the night in the Boucquetin hut, a small, quaint and very surreal mountain hut. It slept about fifteen in one bed, had no running water or electricity and on first appearance resembled a delapidated garden shed! The reality of what we were doing really hit us that night, and, for me, there was lots of time to think about it as I spent what seemed like the longest night of my life staring into the darkness, listening to a howling gale outside which shook the buildings and a chorus of snoring inside.

The days which followed were fantastic, reaching the top of Mt. Brule being a great achievement, then two days later summiting over 3800m. Our hut on that occasion was the Vignettes. This was quite a contrast, sleeping up to 120 and being permanently staffed. (What luxury.)

The expedition was fantastic, and we all came away with many photographs, memories and blisters, of our unforgettable expedition.

Rachel Sturdey, Y12

Absolute Beginners : the First Ten Years

In summer 1999, Absolute Beginners is ten years old. To mark this anniversary it is hoped to bring together past and present members of the group for intensive rehearsals on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th July, 1999, culminating with a gala performance on Sunday evening. Any Old Troupers who are interested can contact the Absolute Beginners committee, care of the school, for further information - although it is intended that all old Absolute Beginners should be reached by a mailshot. Absolute Beginners would like to have a really good video recording of the occasion - just for once! If anyone out there has the equipment and skill to do clever things like editing from several camera angles, and above all ensuring high sound quality and picture quality in bright stage lighting (e.g. use of filters), the Committee would love to hear from you. You can find out more on the School's website.

Jonathan Morgan 1988-95

Summary Of Examination Results Summer 1998

GCSE Results Achieved by Y11

Subject	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	%A*-B	%A*-C
English	63	4	26	17	15	1	0	0	75	98
Eng.Lit	62	3	4	18	29	8	0	0	40	87
Mathematics	63	2	19	27	14	1	0	0	76	98
Biology	63	5	17	25	13	2	0	0	75	95
Chemistry	63	6	20	18	16	2	0	0	70	95
Physics	61	12	14	21	12	2	0	0	77	97
French	41	4	17	10	8	2	0	0	76	95
German	49	3	18	15	8	4	1	0	73	90
History	48	3	15	18	10	2	0	0	75	96
Geography	55	1	18	17	14	3	1	0	65	91
Art	33	1	6	7	11	6	0	0	42	76
Design Technology										
	26	1	5	9	3	7	0	0	58	69
Food Technology										
	37	10	19	6	2	0	0	0	95	100
Music	20	1	5	8	5	1	0	0	70	95
Totals	684	56	203	216	160	41	2	0	69.4	92.8

A Level Results Achieved by Y13

Subjects	Entries	A	B	C	D	E	N	U	%A-E	%A-B
Art	20	2	6	7	4	1	0	0	100	40
Biology	36	12	5	8	7	2	1	1	94	47
Chemistry	26	7	4	4	8	3	0	0	100	42
Physics	24	10	5	4	3	1	1	0	96	63
Economics	17	6	3	3	3	1	1	0	94	53
English	37	11	3	9	10	3	1	0	97	38
French	18	6	0	2	4	3	1	2	83	33
Geography	32	3	4	6	10	3	4	2	81	22
German	8	1	3	1	3	0	0	0	100	50
History	13	3	5	2	2	1	0	0	100	62
Mathematics	35	15	6	10	1	3	0	0	100	60
Further Maths.	4	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	100	75

Subjects	Entries	A	B	C	D	E	N	U	%A-E	%A-B
Music	5	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	80	60
Home Economics	10	6	2	0	2	0	0	0	100	80
Design Technology	10	0	1	1	5	3	0	0	100	10
Spanish	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100
Psychology	41	2	7	12	10	7	3		93	17
Total	337	88	57	70	73	31	13	5	94.7	43
General Studies	14	1	2	2	3	2	1	2	71	21
Total including General Studies	351	89	59	72	78	33	14	7	93.7	42.2

AS Results Achieved by Y13

Subjects	Entries	A	B	C	D	E	N	U	%A-E	%A-B
French	7	0	0	1	0	1	1	4	29	0
Geography	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Mathematics	10	0	2	1	3	0	2	2	60	20
Computer Studs.	22	0	3	6	5	4	1	1	82	14
Statistics	9	1	2	4	0	1	1	0	89	33
Geology	12	0	1	4	4	3	0	0	100	8
History	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	100	0
Business Studs.	8	0	2	1	3	0	1	1	75	25
Italian	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	100	0
Electronics	7	1	1	3	0	2	0	0	100	29
English	6	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	100	0
Psychology	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	100	0
Biology	5	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	100	0
Music Technol.	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	100	0
Total	94	2	11	25	19	16	8	11	77.7	13.8

Results Achieved by Year 13 for Vocational Qualifications (GNVQ)

GNVQ Advanced	Entries	Distinction	Merit	Pass
Business	8	5	-	-
Art & Design	7	4	3	-
Total	15	9	3	-

GNVQ results continued :

A further two students from the previous year completed the course with one Distinction and one Pass.

Destinations of 1998 Leavers

The list below gives all the details as we know them at the time of going to press. All students are going to degree courses at universities unless otherwise indicated.

John Alexander - HND in Pharmaceutical Chemistry at De Montford; **Avanthi Ananthram** - Business Studies at North London; **Judith Archer** - year out working at Debenhams, 1999 entry to Worcester College of Higher Education for Psychology and management; **Corinne Averiss** - MA in English Literature at St. Andrews; **Daniel Barlow** - Computing at Leeds Metropolitan; **James Barnett** - Business/Information Technology at Coventry; **Lucinda Bayman** - Nursing Diploma at Kings College, London; **Mary Beech** - Marine Biology at Swansea; **Jane Bennett** - Information and Library Studies at Central England; **Elizabeth Benstead** - completion of GNVQ then training scheme in conference organisation; **Emma Blackman** - Mechanical Engineering with German at Bath; **Matthew Blades** - Geography at Kings College, London; **James Bleakman** - Art Foundation at Bournville Institute of Art; **Sarah Blinkhorne** - A level French at Warwickshire College; **Jack Boulton** - Anthropology at Goldsmith's College, London; **James Bowler** - Geography/Cartography at Oxford Brookes; **Sukie Brown** - year out as a Chalet Girl in Austria, then 1999 entry to Sheffield Hallam for Industrial Product Design; **James Burroughes** - Biological Sciences at Salford; **Mark Capron** - Business Studies at Staffordshire; **Daniel Carrivick** - MSc in Geological Sciences at Imperial; **Ian Chisholm** - Business Studies at Swansea; **Alistair Clarke** - Foundation Diploma in Art and Design at Central England; **Annabelle Clarke** - In employment at Sitel, then America and Australia for six months; **Richard Clayton** - Electronic and Microelectronic Systems Engineering at UMIST; **Susan Coll** - Business Studies at Central England; **Rachel Collins** - Secondary School Teaching for PE at College of St. Mark and St. John; **Alana Collis** - Chemistry at Sheffield; **Stephen Cook** - HND in Art at Warwickshire College; **Emma Cooley** - Re-sits at Stratford College; **Stephanie Cook** - Law at Oxford Brookes; **Amanda Croft** - French and Philosophy at Sheffield; **David Crofts** - in employment; **Marie Cross** - Primary School Teaching at Newman College; **Lucy Davies** - Law and American Studies at Swansea; **Richard Dean** - year out in employment, then to Canada; **Dirk Demuth** - Medical Science at Birmingham; **Adam Devey** - employment; **Benjamin Dicken** - Medicine at Imperial; **Victoria Egan** - Nursing at Oxford Brookes; **Elizabeth Faulkner** - Modern and Mediaeval Languages at Cambridge; **Laura Fenton** - HND in Hotel Management and Tourism at Sheffield Hallam; **Thomas Fenton** - Mechanical Engineering at Loughborough; **Sarah Fitzsimmons** -

employment in Ireland; **Kerry Fletcher** - employment as a Care Assistant; **Daniel Fogarty** - employment; **Rachel Fosrter** - History at Cambridge; **Sarah Foster** - Speech Science at Sheffield; **James Freeman** - temporary employment; **Jennifer Gladstone** - Geography at Durham; **Simon Green** - Hospitality Management at Bournemouth; **Charlotte Greening** - year out; **Victoria Hadley** - Environmental Health at Norwich City College; **Edward Hall** - Geography at Reading; **Paul Hallahan** - Aerospace Systems Engineering at Coventry; **Daisy Handy** - Surface Decoration at De Montfort; **Kevin Harris** - employment with CCFRA; **Simon Harrison** - year out for work study in Canada, then entry to university in 1999; **Samantha Harvey** - Social Policy with Criminal Justice at Plymouth; **Julie Hawkes** - M.Pharmacy at Nottingham; **Katherine Hawkes** - American Management Science at Swansea; **Sarah Hawthorne** - Hotel and Tourism Management at Sheffield Hallam; **Caroline Heath** - Law at Leeds; **Kate Hemming** - Linguistics and Russian at Sheffield; **Helen Hewitt** - A levels at Redditch College; **Ian Hickman** - Computer Science with Image and Multi-media Systems at Southampton; **Sheryl Hopkins** - employment and accountancy training with Finelist; **Corrina Howe** - Criminal Justice and Policing at Central England; **Tracey Jankus** - employment, re-applying to university in 1999; **Maryann Jardine** - Mathematics at Trinity College, Dublin; **Anthony Jinks** - Post 18 Theatre Studies at Stratford College; **Anna Jones** - Foundation year in Media Technology at Southampton Institute; **Benjamin Joyce** - M.Eng in Civil Engineering at Leeds; **Adam Jukes** - Musical Performance at the Royal College of Music; **Anne Kerr** - Medicine at Imperial; **Jodie Kettleborough** - year out working in Germany and travelling to Italy, then entry to Roehampton Institute for Dance Studies; **James Knott** - employment with Halfords; **Neil Lake** - Art Foundation at Bournville Institute of Art; **David Lamb** - Cricketing in South Africa; **Katy Lloyd** - Mathematics at Leeds; **Simon Lockren** - M.Eng in Material Science and Engineering at Bath; **James Long** - M.Eng in Mechanical Engineering at Bath; **Natalie Lynch** - Psychology at Hertfordshire; **Laura Martin** - Chemistry at Bristol; **Emma Mason** - Mathematics at Bath; **James McArthur** - Mathematics and Computing at Loughborough; **Kelvin Meade** - Mechanical and Automotive Engineering at Newcastle; **Daniel Meredith** - Marketing Management at Coventry; **Rachel Moore** - Psychology at Swansea; **Nigel Morris** - Art Foundation at Bournville Institute of Art; **Thomas Moulson** - Aquaculture and Fishery Management at Sparsholt College, Winchester; **Stephen Mutton** - History at Leeds; **Catherine Neville** - Nutrition and Dietetics at Kings College London; **Claire Newton** - Food Technology at Sheffield Hallam; **Gail Paddock** - Primary Teaching at North East Wales Institute; **Claire Parr** - HND Sports Science at Solihull College; **Samantha Passey** - year out to re-apply for Veterinary Science; **Anna Peacock** - Art Foundation at Ravensbourne College of Art; **Rosalind Peters** - year out then entry to Liverpool for Sociology in 1999; **Joanne Popplewell** - French and Italian at University College, London; **Kathryn Pozzi** - English at University College, London; **Oliver Raison** - Oceanography at Plymouth; **Nishpal Randhawa** - Law and German at West of England; **Jessica Rees** - Veterinary Science at Edinburgh; **Sarah Rees** - MSc Earth Sciences at Manchester; **Ruth Reid** - English Studies at Exeter; **Sam Richards** - Design Studies at Goldsmith's College, London; **Katherine Ross** -

History at Newcastle; Hannah Rowe - BTech National Diploma in Art and Design at Worcester College of Higher Education; **Andrew Rumbles** - Psychology at Manchester Metropolitan; **Phillippa Saint** - Food Marketing Management at Sheffield Hallam; **Charlotte Saunders** - employment until a nursing course in March 1999; **Matthew Seeney** - BSC in Computer Games at Abertay; **Iain Slade** - continuing in Y13 at AGS; **Louisa Smith** - Russian at the School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies; **Louise Smith** - employment; **Claire Sowton** - Primary Teaching and English at Warwick; **Anna Spanswick** - Colour Chemistry at Leeds; **Kirsty Stafford** - Computers in Business at Sheffield Hallam; **Richard Stanford** - Sports Health and Physical Education at Bangor; **Rachel Steele** - Law and Business Studies at Warwick; **Annabel Stott** - Architecture at Liverpool; **Natalie Strong** - European Studies with Modern Languages at Plymouth; **Nicola Stubbs** - seeking employment with the RAF then Officer Training; **Natalie Swinbourne** - year out then re-applying for Veterinary Science; **Katherine Tanner** - English Studies at Southampton; **Luke Tarling** - Env. Protection Studies at Bournemouth; **Bryony Taylor** - Biological Sciences at Swansea; **Anton Thomas** - Business and Marketing at Aston; **Claire Thomas** - Art Foundation at Bournville Institute of Art; **Duncan Thomas** - Modern and Mediaeval Languages at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge; **Eve Thould** - English Literature at Lancaster; **Rebecca Thod** - Business Studies at Nottingham Trent; **Oliver Tupman** - working at AGS then entry to Bradford for Electronic Imaging and Media Communications. **Joanne Viner** - Psychology at Reading; **Amelia Waldron** - Business Studies at Luton; **Catherine Walton** - English at De Montford; **Andrew Wasley** - Computer Science - integrated degree with IBM; **Adam Wheeler** - MSc Chemistry at Durham; **Samuel Wilks** - employment.

Awards To Students on Leavers' Night, January 1998

The Spencer Cup for the best A level results : **Lucy Emerson**
 Also gaining high A level results (over 30 points) : **Catherine Allen, Belinda Bowring, Louise Carr, Susie Hales, Mary Harries, Thomas Johnson, Jo Leather, Craig Nicol, Ella Poulter, Erica Rowlatt, Ashley Smith, Peter Sturdey and Carolyn Wakeling.**
Caroline Wildin (HEFT), Daniel Hartwell (Biology), Lucy Emerson (General Studies) all came in the top five in the country for their subject.

The Bell Cup for Distinction in Mathematics : **Daniel Hartwell**

The Laurie Brain Cup for Distinction in English : **Ruth Reid**

Year 13 Awards for :

Sport	:	Mary Harries
Charity	:	Charlotte Ironmonger
Leadership (prize donated by the army)	:	Matthew Carter
People	:	Jemma Houghton
Music	:	David Last
Sixth Form (prize donated by TEC)	:	Catherine Allen

Whole School	:	Oliver Hyatt
Information Technology	:	Chris Kenn & Craig Nichol
Drama	:	Duncan Thomas
Services to the School	:	Alessando D'Elia
The Mason Cup for the best GCSE results	:	Emily Villis (ten A grades with eight A*)

Also gaining high results (average grade A or better) : **Stephen Barrett, Colette Haden, Kirsten Harris, Natalie Horsfield, Vaishali Nathan, Stephen Prickett, Holly Rowlett, Kate Sergeant, Sam Shearn, and Alex Weatherall.**

Year 11 Awards for :

Sport	:	Elizabeth Wakeling
Leadership	:	Caroline Rolfe
Music (Performing and supporting)	:	Helen Davey
Drama	:	Abbey Wright

Sports Day Results, July 1998

A new record is denoted by *

Junior Boys

100m Y7	1 M. Ward (S)	2 J. Stanley (W)	3 K. Buck (N)
100m Y8	1 T. Snowdon (W)	2 J. Baldwin (W)	3 P. Carrivick (N)
200m	1 T. Snowdon (W)	2 P. Carrivick (N)	3 K. Buck (N)
400m	1 B. Beeson (N)	2 J. Baldwin (W)	3 D. Ireland (S)
800m	1 S. Brisley (S)	2 M. Remes (N)	3 J. Duffin (N)
1500m	1 D. Ireland (S)	2 J. Duffin (N)	3 M. Remes (N)
4X100 "A" Race	1 Wells	2 Spencer	3 Newport
4X100 "B" Race	1 Spencer	2 Wells	3 Newport
High Jump	1 T. Snowdon (W)	2 M. Ward (S)	3 S. Brisley (S)
Shot	1 J. Baldwin (W)	2 R. Hewitt	3 S. Blundell (W)
Discus	1 J. Alexander (S)	2 P. Carrivick (N)	3 J. Duffin (N)
Javelin	1 B. Beeson (N)	2 M. Martin (S)	3 H. Ferguson (W)
Cricket Ball	1 P. Roberts (S)*	2 J. Moffat (W)	3 R. Kirby (N)
Hurdles	1 S. Berry (N)	2 A. Hill (W)	3 P. Felton (S)

Junior Girls

100m Y7	1 F. Martin (S)	2 K. Weatherall (N)	3 N. Granville (S)
100m Y8	1 B. Pearshouse (N)	2 S. Clarke (N)	3 A. Hunt (W)
200m	1 B. Pearshouse (N)	2 H. Wilkinson (S)	3 C. Conroy (W)
300m	1 J. Tugman (S)	2 C. Conroy (W)	3 H. Wilkinson (S)
800m	1 A. Vater (S)	2 L. Willoughby (N)	3 A. Robbins (W)
1500m	1 A. Vater (S)	2 J. Johnson (W)	3 A. Robbins (W)

4X100 "A" Race	1	Newton	2	Spencer	3	Wells
4X100 "B" Race	1	Wells	2	Spencer	3	Newport
High Jump	1	A. Vater (S)	2	C. Piclett (W)	3	J. Benton-Evans (N)
Shot	1	M. Richards (N)*	2	F. Martin (S)	3	K. Campbell (N)
				tied	3	K. Dearnley (S)
Discus	1	M. Richards (N)	2	C. Bird (S)	3	H. Macdonald (S)
Javelin	1	J. Tugman (S)	2	B. Elliott (W)	3	L. Dimmock (W)
Rounders Ball	1	L. Willoughby (N)	2	B. Pearshouse (N)	3	E. Bloxham (S)
Hurdles	1	F. Martin (S)	2	L. Fitzgerald (W)	3	J. Benton-Evans (N)

Inter Boys

100m Y9	1	J. Baty (S)	2	D. White (N)	3	C. Jolliffe (N)
100m Y10	1	B. Fletcher (S)	2	H. Philpotts (W)	3	J. Pickett (W)
200m	1	T. Coates (S)	2	G. Platt (N)	3	A. Collins (S)
400m	1	G. Platt (N)	2	H. Philpotts (W)	3	D. White (N)
800m	1	T. Coates (S)	2	J. Baty (S)	3	C. Rees (N)
1500 m	1	D. Prickett (S)	2	C. Rees (N)	3	B. Fletcher (S)
4X100 "A" Race	1	Spencer	2	Newport	3	Wells
4X100 "B" Race	1	Wells	2	Newport	3	Spencer
High Jump	1	A. Collins (S)	2	O. Furlow (W)	3	T. Poultney (W)
Shot	1	J. Wraight (S)	2	C. Long (N)	3	L. Lewis (W)
Discus	1	G. Platt (N)	2	C. Long (N)	3	B. Fletcher (S)
Javelin	1	J. Wells (N)	2	T. Coates (S)	3	R. Ireland (S)
Hurdles	1	D. Prickett (S)	2	T. Poultney (W)	3	C. Jolliffe (N)

Inter Girls

100m Y9	1	A. Collins (S)	2	K. Mileto (W)	3	V. Ricketts (S)
100m Y10	1	J. Gilbert (S)	2	G. Brueton (S)	3	E. Double (W)
200m	1	J. Gilbert (S)	2	R. Bentley (W)	3	A. Collins (S)
300m	1	R. Bentley (W)	2	R. Edwards (S)	3	B. Stanley (N)
800m	1	A. Vater (S)	2	A. Howe (N)	3	L. Thomas (W)
1500m	1	A. Vater (S)	2	K. Mileto (W)	3	K. Salt-Bush (W)
4X100 "A" Race	1	Wells	2	Spencer	3	Newport
4X100 "B" Race	1	Wells	2	Spencer	3	Newport
High Jump	1	A. Vater (S)	2	L. Ellison (N)	3	K. Salt-Bush (W)
Shot	1	J. Gilbert (S)	2	M. Richards (N)	3	C. Mavrommatis (W)
Discus	1	C. Archer (S)	2	S. Westmacott (N)	3	L. Hall (W)
Javelin	1	M. Pick (S)	2	J. Green (N)	3	O. Blundell (W)
Hurdles	1	K. Harris (W)	3	B. Stanley (N)	3	K. Mann (S)

Senior Boys

100m	1	R. Price (N)	2	R. Talbot (N)	3	G. Joynes (W)
200m	1	P. Walford (N)	2	I. Cutler	3	A. Powell (W)
400m	1	S. Tilley (N)	2	J. Platt	3	T. Futer (W)
800m	1	J. Bowler (S)	2	J. Platt (W)	3	A. Powell (W)

1500m	1 J. Bowler (S)	2 G. Jones (W)	3 I. Shadlock (N)
4X100 "A" Race	1 Newport	2 Wells	3 Spencer
Hurdles	1 J. O'Korafor (W)	2 G. Jones (N)	3 T. Port (S)
High Jump	1 J. Bowler (S)	2 S. Grinsted (S)	3 J. Jones (S)
Shot	1 C. Mason (W)	2 J. Chiffin	3 S. Wilkes (N)
Discus	1 C. Mason (W)	2 J. Cooke (W)	3 P. Royston (S)
Javelin	1 S. Grinsted (S)	2 C. Knight (N)	3 S. McLaren (N)

Senior Girls

100m	1 K. Saunders (W)	2 H. Elwell (N)	3 K. Sergeant (S)
200m	1 H. Marshall (S)	2	3
300m	1 L. Wakeling (W)	2 K. Macnamee (S)	3 A. Collis (W)
800m	1 H. Marshall (S)	2 L. Wakeling (W)	3 A. Collis (W)
4X100 "A" Race	1 Wells	2 Spencer	3 Newport
High Jump	1 R. Pask	2 H. Marshall (S)	3 K. Sergeant
Shot	1 K. Popplewell (W)	2 A. Price (S)	3 R. Key (W)
Discus	1 C. Dencer (W)	2 A. Price (S)	3 K. Harris (W)

Overall Result Summary for Sports Day

Victor Ludorum - Junior Boys	Tom Snowdon
Victrix Ludorum - Junior Girls	Annie Vater
Victor Ludorum - Inter Boys	Tom Coates
Victrix Ludorum - Inter Girls	Amy Vater and Jenny Gilbert
Victor Ludorum - Senior Boys	James Bowler
Victrix Ludorum - Senior Girls	Hana Marshall
Girls' Cup :	Spencer Wells Newport
Boys' Cup :	Spencer Newport Wells
Overall Shield :	Spencer Newport Wells

Games Results 1996-97

Inter House Trophy (Based on the whole year's activities)

1st Wells ; Spencer tied with Newport for second place

Athletics

Adam Collins, Liz Wakeling, Hana Marshall and Gemma Collins all represented Warwickshire.

The Junior Boys and the Junior Girls both came 5th in the Warwickshire Schools Cup, while the Inter Boys came 3rd and the Inter Girls 7th.

In the South Warwickshire Inter Schools Championship, Year 7 boys came 2nd, Year 7 girls 3rd, Year 8 boys 3rd, Year 8 girls 7th, Year 9 boys 3rd and Year 9 girls 5th.

In the Warwickshire combined events the junior boys came 2nd, inter boys 3rd and senior girls 1st.

Cricket	P	W
	12	4

Hockey		P	W	D	Captain(s)
	First XI	6			M. Beech
	U16 XI	8	2	1	R. Palmer
	U15 XI	7	1	1	various
	U14 XI	11	1	5	various
	U13 XI	8	2	1	Amy Robbins
	U12 XI	8	2	4	various
	Mixed XI	5	4		K. Lloyd

Senior colours were awarded to Suki Brown, Emma Blackman, Catherine Neville, Emma Mason, Lindsey McFarlane, Jeniene Boots, Mark Capron, Tom Moulson, Adam Wheeler

Netball		P	W	D	Captain(s)
	1st VII	6	3		L. Wakeling, K. Sergeant
	U16 VII	2			A. Carter
	U15 VII	8	4		J. Gilbert
	U14 VII	8	6		various
	U13 VII	9	3		N. White
	U12 VII	8	5	1	various

In tournaments the 1st VII entered two, coming 1st in one and 5th in the other, the U16 VII also entered two, coming 5th in one and winning the other, the U14 VII entered three, were the winners in one, the runners up in the second and came 5th in the third, the U13 VII entered two and came 3rd in their section of one and 3rd overall in the other. Finally the U12 VII entered one tournament, came 2nd in their section and went on to lose in the quarter final.

Rounders		P	W	D	Captain(s)
	6th IX	1	1		
	U16 IX	1	1		
	U15 IX	4	1		Kate Misson
	U14 IX	8	4		Victoria Ricketts
	U13 IXA	5	1		Becky Elliott
	U13 IXB	3	1		Sophie Bladon
	U12 IXA	2	2		Katie Walter
	U12 IXB	1	1		Catherine Halliday

Many matches were cancelled due to bad weather.

Tennis (Girls)	P	W	D	Captain(s)
6th Form	3	2		various
U16	all matches cancelled			
U15 (league)	3	2		Mary Richards

U15	2	1	Mary Richards
U14	2	2	various
U13 (league)	6	2	various
U13	1		

Junior colours were awarded to Nicola Martin and Emily Green; senior colours went to Mary Richards.

Tennis (Boys)	6	4
Tennis (Mixed)	3	2

Senior colours were awarded to Chris Long

AGS Tennis Tournament	Winner	Runner-up
Mens Open Championship	David Hawkes	Ioan Rees
Ladies Open Championship	Mary Richards	Kate Saunders
Junior Boys Championship	Cameron Harris	Conor Quinn
Junior Girls Championship	Nicky Martin	Emily Green

Rugby		P	W	D	Captain(s)
1st	XV	10	3		D. Barlow
Y11	XV	3	0		A. Lea
Y10	XV	8	3		J. Wells
Y9	XV	7	3		D. White
Y8	XV	10	3	1	B. Beeson
Y7	XV	10	5	1	M. Ward
Tournaments		4	2		

Colours were awarded to Luke Tarling, James Bleakman, Simon Lockren, Simon Green, Dan Barlow, Tom Warren, Richard Stanford, Oliver Raison

Soccer		P	W	D	Captain(s)
1st	XI	10	5	2	D. Meredith
2nd	XI	6	5	1	J. Pearson
Y11	XI	2	1	1	C. Robertson
Y10	XI	4	2		T. Coates
Y9	XI	5	3	1	N. Evans
Y8	XI	8	4	2	P. Felton
Y7	XI	6	4		K. Buck
Tournaments		25	13	6	

Colours were awarded to Daniel Meredith, Adam Devey, Iain Chisholm, Anton Thomas, Thomas Coles

Basketball	P	W	D	Captain(s)
6th form	2			D. Demuth
Y11	4	1		
Y10	4			
Y9	2	2		
Y8	1			

Old Scholars' News

Degree Results 1998

All students are from the cohort of 1988-95, unless otherwise stated.

Kate Richards (1993-95) BA class 2(i) in Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Brasenose College, Oxford. We heard last year that she had been elected to an Open Exhibition at her college; **Jonathan Morgan** BA class 1 in Jurisprudence at Balliol College, Oxford, now teaching Law to Polish students in Warsaw. He sent us news earlier that he had been elected to a Markby Exhibition and Markby Scholarship at Balliol College, Oxford, and had won the Oxford University Gibbs Law Examination book prize. He also mooted for Oxford against Cambridge University at Lincoln's Inn. And lost; **Ruth Barry** (1986-93) BA class 2(i) in French and German at Leeds and is to go on to PGCE; **Emma Cooper** (1987-94) BA class 2(i) in French at Lancaster; **Christine Laidler** (1986-93) MB,BS in Medicine at Newcastle, proceeding to registration year in Newcastle; **Stephen Wasley** BSc class 1 in Mathematics at Keele going on to accountancy; **James Horn** BA class 2(i) in Drama at Aberystwyth; **Emma Shrimpton** (1992-94) LLB class 2(i) in European Law with French at Nottingham Trent; **Sarah-Jane Blake** BSc class 2(i) in Music at City, going on to MMus at Royal Holloway College, London; **Nicola Saint** (1993-95) BSc class 2(i) in Mathematics and Psychology at Royal Holloway College, London; **Jo Rayner** (1985-89) BA class 2(i) in Fashion Promotion at Central Lancashire; **Katherine Steele** (1983-90) PhD in Molecular Plant Pathology at NCH, going on to research into rice, at Bangor; **Simon Bartholomew** BSc class 2(i) in Geography with Mathematics at Sheffield; **Alison Fraser** (1993-95) BA class 2(i) in Broadcast Journalism at Nottingham Trent; **Julia Pickering** (1993-95) BSc class 1 in Environmental Science at Birmingham; **Caroline Lock** MA class 2(i) in English at Dundee; **Emma Macdonald** (1987-94) BA class 2(i) in African Studies at Birmingham; **Sarah Hall** (1992-94) BA class 2(i) in Politics and International Relations at Reading; **Deborah Burgess** (1986-93) BSc class 2(i) in Biological Science at Birmingham; **Andrew Jones** (1984-86) BEng/BComm class 2(i) in Manufacturing Engineering and Commerce at Birmingham; **Sarah Espley** (1987-94) BA class 2(i) in Archaeology at Bournemouth/Southampton, going on to a commission in the army; **Paul Beesley** (1987-94) BA class 2(i) in Business Studies at Portsmouth; **Simon Lloyd** (1992-94) BSc Class 1 on Construction Management at Leeds Metropolitan; **Andrew Major** (1990-92) MB ChB class 1 in Medicine at Birmingham; **Edward Wain** (1992-94) BSc class 1 in Physics at Imperial; **David Baker** BSc class 2(i) in Geography at Plymouth; **Lydia Stanley** (1989-94) BA class 2(i) in English at Bangor; **Ania Grzesik** (1990-92) MA at the Slade. She has been commissioned to do work for a hospital in Dorset and is on the books of the Contemporary Art Society, with other commissions in the motor racing world.

Other Degree Results (before summer 1998)

Georgina Canning (1986-93) BSc Class 2.2 at Bath - now going on to a Diploma in Nursing at the Alexandra Hospital; **Lisa Baylis** (1987-94) B.Com Class 2.1 in Commerce at Birmingham; **Jo Ireland** (1987-94) MB,ChB (Medicine) at Birmingham; **Sarah Knight** (1987-94) BA Class 2.1 in English at The University College of St Martin; **Peter Austing** (1992-94) BA Class 1 in Mathematics at Christ's College, Cambridge - going on to a PhD.

Other News of Old Scholars

Matthew White (1986-93), has been called to the Bar by the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn. **Alison Bradley** (1982-89) having obtained her BA at Aberystwyth in 1995, has been awarded an MA in Translation at Warwick. **Penny Peters** (1988-94) is working for a local newspaper in Nuneaton.

Martyn Allen

Martyn Allen died in March 1998. He had been Chair of Governors for two and a half years and a governor for many years. It is not easy for those beyond the school to always know just how much a Chair of Governors gives. Martyn was always available, always supportive, yet ever honest about matters which required straight talking. He understood well the need for a governor to be a critical friend of the school. To both the school and myself he was a *real* friend - warm, questioning and able, with his incisive mind, to see wood for trees ! He often uplifted me with wise counsel in times of trouble.

Many of you will know that he and his wife Jenny bore the loss of their eldest son, Christopher, who died of a heart attack on our school field several years ago, with courage and dignity; you may also know that their daughter Katie was Chair of the Sixth Form Council and graced the school with her commitment, care and service. They have a son, Nicholas at primary school.

Hilda Hewitt, Deputy Head 1970-71

Hilda Hewitt, who died in the autumn of 1997, was a native of Bromsgrove, and after graduating from the University of Birmingham, was appointed as teacher at Pershore County Senior School, moving on to The Central School in Watford. In 1947 she was appointed Head of History at AGS, but also had responsibility for all girls' P.E. and games until a specialist teacher arrived to take charge of those duties. In 1970, upon the retirement of the then Headmaster, Mr Davison, and Miss Webley, the Deputy Head, Miss Hewitt considered retirement herself but

was persuaded to stay on for one year as Mr Turner's Deputy, to help see in the new regime. She retired in 1971 as Deputy Head after twenty-four years at the school.

She will be remembered by Old Scholars and former colleagues alike for her calm dignity under all circumstances, for her excellent teaching of her subject, and her ready but subtle sense of humour.

C. J. J

Here ends *The Record* No. 164

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To Old Scholars and friends of the school, £1.50

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